

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KORNG SEE,

Petitioner,

v.

DAVID JENNINGS, et al.,

Respondents.

Case No. 17-cv-00225 NC

**ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR  
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AS  
MOOT**

Re: Dkt. No. 1

Petitioner Korng See petitioned the Court for a writ of habeas corpus on January 17, 2017, challenging his “indefinite detention” in immigration custody. Dkt. No. 1. In a Joint Status Report filed with the Court, the parties reported See had been released from custody on March 16, 2017. Dkt. No. 21 at 3. The Court ordered the parties to file briefing as to whether the case was moot after See’s release. The Court finds that under the current record, the petition for the writ is MOOT, and that no exception to the mootness doctrine applies. Thus, the Court DENIES See’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus.<sup>1</sup>

Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution requires the existence of a “case” or “controversy” through all stages of federal judicial proceedings. This means that, throughout the litigation, the plaintiff “must have suffered, or be threatened with, an actual injury traceable to the defendant and likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial

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<sup>1</sup> All parties consented to the jurisdiction of a magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). Dkt. Nos. 8, 11, 20.

1 decision.” *Lewis v. Continental Bank Corp.*, 494 U.S. 472, 477 (1990). A case becomes  
2 moot “when the parties lack a legally cognizable interest in the outcome.” *Johnson v.*  
3 *Rancho Santiago Cmty. Coll. Dist.*, 623 F.3d 1011, 1020 (9th Cir. 2010) (quotation marks  
4 omitted). An exception to mootness is the voluntary cessation doctrine, where the  
5 defendant voluntarily ceases engaging in the challenged practice. *Friends of the Earth,*  
6 *Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 189 (2000) (citing *City of*  
7 *Mesquite v. Aladdin’s Castle, Inc.*, 455 U.S. 199, 203 (1968)). Yet for this exception to  
8 apply, the government’s “voluntary cessation ‘must have arisen because of the litigation.’”  
9 *Sze v. I.N.S.*, 153 F.3d 1005, 1008 (9th Cir. 1998) (quoting *Public Utilities Comm’n of*  
10 *State of Cal. v. F.E.R.C.*, 100 F.3d 1451, 1460 (9th Cir. 1996)).

11 Furthermore, “[f]or a habeas petition to continue to present a live controversy after  
12 the petitioner’s release or deportation, . . . there must be some remaining ‘collateral  
13 consequence’ that may be redressed by success on the petition.” *Abdala v. I.N.S.*, 488 F.3d  
14 1061, 1064 (9th Cir. 2007) (citing *Spencer v. Kemna*, 523 U.S. 1, 7 (1998)). “By contrast,  
15 where the grounds for habeas relief will not redress collateral consequences, a habeas  
16 petition does not continue to present a live controversy once the petitioner is released from  
17 custody.” *Id.* As relevant here, the Ninth Circuit has found that a petitioner’s “release  
18 from detention under an order of supervision ‘moot[ed] his challenge to the legality of his  
19 extended detention.’” *Id.* at 1064-65 (quoting *Riley v. INS*, 310 F.3d 1253, 1256-57 (10th  
20 Cir. 2002) and citing *Sayyah v. Farquharson*, 382 F.3d 20, 22 n.1 (1st Cir. 2004)).

21 See was taken into ICE custody on June 2, 2016. Dkt. No. 1 at 4. Beginning in  
22 September 2016, at each hearing, See unsuccessfully moved to terminate the proceedings  
23 against him because of the failure to locate a Lahu Yellow interpreter. *Id.* at 5. On March  
24 15, 2017, the immigration judge again denied See’s motion to terminate the proceedings  
25 against him, but administratively closed See’s case because of the failure to find an  
26 interpreter. Dkt. No. 21 at 2. The next day, March 16, 2017, ICE voluntarily released See  
27 from custody on supervision with conditions. *Id.* at 3, 4. The government continues to  
28 search for a Lahu Yellow interpreter, and will not re-calendar See’s removal proceedings

1 until such an interpreter is found. *Id.* at 4.

2 The Court finds that under the record as developed thus far, the petition for a writ  
3 does not present a case or controversy now that See has been released from custody and his  
4 removal proceeding is administratively closed. The immigration court is still in the  
5 process of locating a Lahu Yellow interpreter. Dkt. Nos. 23, 23-1. See was released under  
6 supervision with specific conditions, and ICE has the authority to re-detain him if he  
7 violates the conditions of his release. *See* Dkt. No. 25-1. Upon his release under  
8 supervision, his petition for a writ has been mooted. *Abdala*, 488 F.3d at 1064. In  
9 addition, See was released the day after the immigration court administratively closed the  
10 removal proceedings, substantially lessening the likelihood that See was released *because*  
11 *of* this litigation rather than as a result of the immigration court's decision. *Sze*, 153 F.3d  
12 at 1008.

13 The petition for a writ of habeas corpus is therefore DENIED as moot. The clerk  
14 will terminate the file. Should circumstances change in the future, See may file a new  
15 petition.

16  
17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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19 Dated: April 19, 2017

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NATHANAEL M. COUSINS  
United States Magistrate Judge